

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action, dated September 15, 2008, has been reviewed and the remarks therein considered. In reply, Applicant requests that this Amendment be entered and reconsideration of the instant application be made in view of the amendments made to the claims and the remark made herein.

Claims 1-9 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-7 and 9 stand rejected 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong (Fingerprint Image Enhancement: Algorithm and Performance Evaluation). Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang ("A Modified Gabor Filter Design Method for Fingerprint Image Enhancement").

Claim 8 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph were overcome.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 8, and has elected to amended claim 1 to include the subject matter recited in claim 8 and to present the material cited therein in a form that would enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention claimed. More specifically, amended claim 1 has been further amended to recite the processing described on page 5, lines 11-21 and in Figure 2.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is in a form that has overcome the rejection under 35 USC 101 and consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter and has

With regard to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, applicant submits that for the amendments to the claims and for the remarks herein, the reason for the rejection

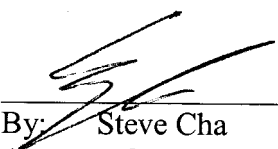
is no longer relevant and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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